

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

XXVII, No. 51

FRIDAY, December 22, 1961

United States and Canada 1 year \$3.00; 2 years \$5.00; 3 years \$7.00
Foreign 1 year \$4.50; 2 years \$8.00; 3 years \$11.00

Welcome Home

By August Van Ryn

At Christmas and New Year's, many will journey to their childhood homes to enjoy the ties of family love, and recall memories of bygone days. Some dear faces will be missing.

In this message we are reminded of spiritual ties which are never to be broken, and a heavenly home where all the children of God will be gathered to part no more. (Ed.)

The Scripture, John 1:11, tells us that Jesus "came unto his own." That expression "His own" is translated at least twice in the New Testament by the so-precious term "home"—in Acts 21:6 and I Timothy 5:4. Few words are sweeter to human ears than that word "home." And "home," of course, is not really the place but rather dear folks that make that house truly a home. The French express that thought so well when they call home "chez nous or chez vous"—which means "with us, or with you." And the Greek language conveys the same thought, for the word "idios" can mean the people themselves as well as the place or thing. To be at home, then, is to be with the folks you love and who love you.

So, our blessed Lord left His magnificent Home on high and those so dear to Him, and came

down to earth to find a home with men, whom He had made for His pleasure and joy. But, alas, when He came to this home down here, they received Him not. That word "receive" might well be translated "welcome." He came home, but there was no welcome home for Him. The door was slammed in His face; there was no room for Him. He is the Stranger of Galilee.

Matthew in his Gospel presents the Saviour as the King—King of kings. Usually births of royalty attract great attention and are awaited with breathless interest, but Matthew says nothing at all about the actual birth and its surrounding circumstances of this greatest of all monarchs ever born. In Luke's Gospel, where Jesus is presented as the Son of Man who humbled Himself in condescending grace to come to earth, we read a number of details in connection with His entrance into His earthly domains. Here, if there is no committee of earthly inhabitants to welcome Him, God sends a vast heavenly concourse of angels to announce the coming of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. But it happens at night and only a few simple shepherds

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Abraham at seventy-five made a new start, ventured out into the unknown following God. Here he is held as our example for the new start.

The Land of Beginning Again

by Evangelist Bill Rice

Contributing Editor, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."—Gen. 12:1-3.

Bible scholars call this the Abrahamic covenant. I understand that this is a great message and promise to Abram (later changed to Abraham), and to his people, the Hebrew race. But I am interested

right now in these Scriptures as they might apply to you and to me. These verses have been of tremendous value and untold blessing to me. I have gone back to them again and again and again, and found strength, comfort, and hope. I trust these verses of Scripture and this plain message based upon them will be of genuine value and blessing to you.

God Promised

"Abraham," God said, "I am looking for a man who will be sold out to Me, a man who will believe Me, who will trust Me, who will put Me first, who will go where I want him to go, who will do what I want him to do, who will say what I want him to say, who will be what I want him to be—someone who will trust Me

to look after him, to guide him, to protect him, and to reward him. "And I would bless such a man. I would make his name stand for something, and I would bless

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Dr. Bill Rice

The Meaning of Christmas

By Robert G. Lee, Ph.D., D.D.
1674 Peach Street, Memphis 12, Tennessee

"The dayspring from on high hath visited us."—Luke 1:78.

The birth of a little child the Christian world at this season celebrates. Christmas Day is a holy and happy day when we commemorate the coming of God's Son into the world—the incarnation of God by way of the virgin birth. Never too happily can we sing. Never too eagerly can we ring the bells. Never with exaggeration can we express the Christmas benediction. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

With the coming of the "day-spring from on high," morning broke upon the world's darkness—in Bethlehem—while men and women, bruised and bleeding, were in a darkness unlighted by flickering

philosophical tapers and sputtering Judaistic lamps.

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This prediction—most clear in application, most glorious in content, most consolatory in design, most gracious in purpose—points us to the time when God's Son assumed our nature, entering the world in circumstances of deepest humiliation.

With every detail of the Christmas story we are familiar—Herod of Judah, the last of Judah's kings—Israel, breathing her hope of Messiah's advent—Bethlehem, small and white upon its mountain slopes, where heaven put out its brightest star—Cyrenius publishing the order of the Emperor—the star, seen in far away Persia by wise men of the East, accustomed to study the heavens, mounting their camels and journeying westward over the desert to Jerusalem—the angels, the shepherds, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, the gifts from the wise men of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

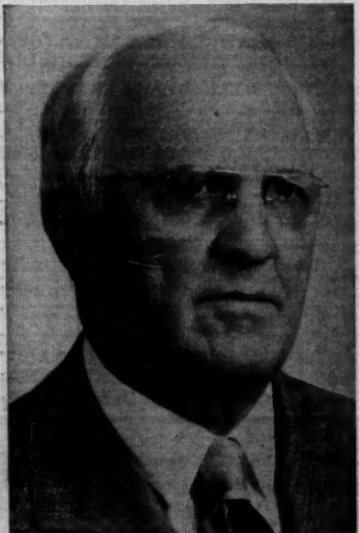
What is the meaning—we ask—of Christmas to the world? Christ is a—

I. Manifestation

Though Christmas is the celebration of the advent of Christ into the world by human birth, nobody should believe that Christmas marks the beginning of Christ—because the Son who rested on the bosom and fed at the breast of the virgin Mary for a little while had, before this world was, rested on the bosom of the Father—before "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4). Jesus had glory with God before the world was (John 17:5). Jesus Himself said: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

His incarnation was literally an "enfleshment"—God assuming a living, bodily form. The child of Mary was of the Holy Ghost. The power of the Highest overshadowed her. Through the power of the Holy Spirit that body was formed within her—a body that partook of sin of neither man nor woman. And that body was God. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16). "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the

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Dr. R. G. Lee

Beat the Income Tax Deadline

December 31 Is Deadline for Making Gifts to Be Deductible From This Year's Income Tax

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Assistant Editor

The United States Government allows up to 30% of a person's income to be given for Gospel work and counted as an income tax deduction. This means that a person earning \$5,000 a year may give \$1,500 to religious or charitable causes and still receive full deduction from his income tax return. A person earning \$10,000 a year could give up to \$3,000 and deduct the whole amount from his income tax.

A person in the lower income tax bracket pays approximately 20% of his net income after deductions to the federal government for income tax. This means that for any contribution a person in this income tax bracket makes, he pays 80% of the contribution and actually the federal government pays 20%. For those in higher income tax brackets the amount can go up as high as 90% which is actually paid by the government and 10% paid by the individual.

Businesses and corporations can also make contributions to non-

profit organizations and receive full deduction on their income tax returns.

Now is the time to consider prayerfully what you ought to do before the tax deadline on December 31. Perhaps you or your business ought to make a sizeable contribution to the Lord's work before the deadline. The federal government recognizes this as right and proper and gives full deduction up to 30% of your income.

Two Worthy Projects

Here at The Sword of the Lord Foundation we have two projects which I believe would be well worth your help. In the first place we have a minister and missionary subscription gift fund which sends THE SWORD OF THE LORD free to those who could not otherwise afford it. We send the paper to many missionaries on foreign

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Merry Christmas to every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD! You cannot know how much I love you and pray God to help us be a blessing. Oh, may the Lord draw you very near this Christmastime, bless your families, save your lost loved ones, and make the holiday season a time of thanksgiving and new resolutions, and happy fellowship and holy joy in the Lord.

Gifts to the Sword of the Lord Foundation Are Tax Free; Rush Yours

The Sword of the Lord Foundation is a nonprofit corporation chartered under the laws of Illinois, recognized by the Federal Government. Gifts to the Sword of the Lord Foundation, either to our Free Literature Fund, our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund, the "Voice of Revival" broadcast, or otherwise, may be deducted from taxable income. The government allows up to thirty per cent of your income given to churches and other Christian organizations tax free. Many will want to get gifts away soon and save some taxes on 1961 income. If you mail gifts right away, we can date receipts before January 1.

And the Christmas season is a proper and happy time to help in the soul-winning work of the Sword of the Lord.

We are receiving wonderful reports of people saved through our literature, the radio broadcast heard on about forty stations is reaching millions of people, we trust, and there is much evidence of blessing. Our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund carries THE SWORD OF THE LORD to missionaries, national pastors who read English in other countries, to ministerial students and others.

This nonprofit work which is winning souls, stirring revival fires, defending the faith, building up the churches, deserves the help of Bible-believing Christians. Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

A Week End in Detroit Area

It was a joy to be with the Greater Detroit Baptist Fellowship for services Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday, December 1-3. Services were mainly held in the Baptist Temple, Riverview, a suburb south of Detroit. Other speakers included Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., Dr. Jack Hyles, Evangelist Fred Garland, Dr. John Hunter,

Evangelist Glen Schultz, etc. I spoke Friday night, twice on Saturday, four times on Sunday at churches in Melvindale, Downriver, Riverview, and Royal Oak, Michigan. We had eight professions of faith in Christ in two churches, Sunday morning at 10 and 11:00. A number of others joined the church, and during the day there were new resolutions and holy decisions. I returned with 119 subscriptions.

Pastors, Here Is Your Chance

Last week end in Detroit four pastors and a choir director earned a free gift of my big book, *The Golden Path to Successful Personal Soul Winning* by turning in ten or more subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Just think; you may offer THE SWORD at the rock-bottom club rate of only \$2.00 a year. And if you send in ten or more subscriptions with cash, you or the pastor get a free copy of the book, *The Golden Path to Successful Personal Soul Winning*.

Simply show a copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD in public, pass out envelopes, have people then and there write their names and addresses on them and put \$2.00 inside for the year's subscription. Then send the ten or more names in together, along with the cash, \$2.00 per year for each subscription, and receive your free copy of this big beautiful book! Your people need the subscriptions, and you need the book. Your own subscription may count for as many years as you choose at this club rate. The subscriptions may be either new or renewals.

Dear pastors, do it now! Now is the opportunity and you can get the big \$3.00 book free if you hurry. Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Others note the special rates. You may have this big new \$3.00 book free with two yearly subscriptions for \$5.00, with three yearly subscriptions for \$7.00, with five yearly subscriptions for \$11, or with ten yearly subscriptions for \$20. Rush your subscriptions now.

New Grandson, Number Twenty-One

Last Thursday night Mark Ray, a fine 8-pound, 12-ounce boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Don Sandberg, the editor's twenty-first grandchild. Mrs. Sandberg writes the column for women, "From My Kitchen Window," in THE SWORD, sings alto in the Rice sisters duet on "Voice of Revival" broadcast. Don Sandberg conducts the radio choir. Of the twenty-one grandchildren, seventeen of them are seven and under!

Other family notes. Mrs. Rice was with me in Detroit. She plans to go with me to the Holy Land in February, if she can save enough money! Evangelist Chuck Himes has accepted the pastorate at Millington, Tennessee, near Memphis, is already on the field, and his family will move after

INCIDENTS

And Illustrations

By
Evangelist Robert L. Sumner,
Contributing Editor

The Light That Failed

At Menlo Park, New Jersey, there is a 131-foot tower built in honor of Thomas Alva Edison. At the base of the tower is a museum. In that museum is a so-called "eternal light." It consists of a light bulb made of glass and metal which, once it was lit, was supposed to burn forever.

Way back in 1929, this light bulb was placed on a pedestal in the museum and Edison himself, who was in Detroit at the time, pressed a remote control button to start the "eternal light" shining. Underneath the light, a small plaque stated simply:

"The light once lit shall never dim, but through all time shall honor him."

For more than three decades people came to see the place where many of Edison's discoveries were made. Naturally, some of their "Oh's" and "Ah's" were reserved for the "eternal light" which had been burning so long.

However, a newspaper man was recently in the museum and he noticed that the light was out. Questioning the caretaker, Robert Walling, the reporter learned that a fuse had blown.

Getting curious about this "eternal light," the reporter began questioning the caretaker and the ugly truth came out: *The "eternal light" couldn't burn forever because it had never burned at all!* Whereas it looked just like an ordinary light bulb, the "eternal light" did not have a

Christmas. The editor will be sixty-six next Monday, December 11, and I am still preaching, often four times a day; spend nights frequently on train or plane. Tonight, Wednesday, December 6, I will be on the train to St. Paul, preaching tomorrow and Friday morning at Pillsbury Conservative Baptist Bible College, Owatonna, Minnesota. How good God has been to all of us!

Big Plans for Sword Conference, Winston-Salem, February 5-9

Pastor Paul Raker of the big Faith Baptist Tabernacle, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was at the Southern Baptist Fellowship at Chattanooga, November 27-29. He and I talked about large plans for the big Sword conference at the Tabernacle February 5-9, Monday through Friday.

Speakers already promised include Dr. Jack Hyles, First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana; Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., evangelist, founder of Bob Jones University; Dr. Bill Rice, evangelist, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and this editor, John R. Rice.

Rooms will be provided for out-of-town preachers. Expenses will be light. We believe it will be the greatest time of inspiration, building the soul-winner's fire, definite instruction in soul winning, holy vows and changed lives that hundreds have ever seen. We expect attendance from more than twenty states. Plan now to come, to pray through your problems, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to learn soul-winning methods, to get a genuine revival in your heart, to be fed on the Word of God with power.

Pastors who would like to have free beds in the homes of Winston-Salem people write Rev. Paul O. Raker, P. O. Box 422, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Save February 5-9 now.

Readers in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Beyond, You Can Hear "Voice of Revival" From Chicago

In Detroit last Sunday night we found that the "Voice of Revival" broadcast coming from Radio Station WCFL, Chicago, 9:30 p.m. central time (10:30 p.m. eastern time) came in very strong and clear on the car radio and came in acceptably on a very old radio in the motel room. That broadcast on WCFL 9:30 Sunday night, cen-

trality, is on 1000 KC. So we are convinced that people all over Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio can hear this broadcast and many of New York State, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia can hear it, too, from this single 50,000-watt station.

We want to hear from every family in these states who can hear the broadcast on WCFL, Chicago.

Thus the "eternal light" was proven to be not so eternal after all—as a matter of fact, it was proven to be not even a light! There is, however, a true eternal light. This light not only will never go out; it had no beginning. *That light is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* He said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9).

Believe It or Not!

As unbelievable as it may seem, the pastor of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at McCook, Texas, "Father" V. Herbert Howley, applied for a "retailer's beer permit" so he could sell beer on church property to his parishioners. The County Court at Edinburg, Texas, granted the license and the church is now "in business."

The newspaper which reported the incident had titled the item: *"Beer Better at Church."* But the poison in the bottle is the same whether it is dispensed over a saloon counter or a church altar. And the curse of God is on it just as much when it is drunk at church as when drunk in a tavern—perhaps more!

In the Roman Catholic Bible, the Confraternity-Douay Version, God's woe upon those who provide booze for others is described: *"Woe to him that giveth drink to his friend, and presenteth his gall, and maketh him drunk . . . the cup of the right hand of the Lord shall compass thee, and shameful vomiting shall be on thy glory."* (Habakkuk 2:15,16). The same version's translation of Proverbs 20:1 warns: *"Wine is arrogant, strong drink is riotous; none who goes astray for it is wise."*

But perhaps the poor priest should meditate most upon the Confraternity-Douay translation of Proverbs 24:29-35: *"Who scream? Who shriek? Who have strife? Who have anxiety? Who have wounds for nothing? Who have black eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who engage in trials of blended wine. Look not on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the glass. It goes down smoothly; but in the end it bites like a serpent, or like a poisonous adder. Your eyes behold strange sights, and your heart utters dis-*

trality, is on 1000 KC. So we are convinced that people all over Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio can hear this broadcast and many of New York State, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia can hear it, too, from this single 50,000-watt station.

We want to hear from every family in these states who can hear the broadcast on WCFL, Chicago.

Evangelistic Sermon Contest Closes February 1

We are offering \$1,600 cash awards for the ten best evangelistic sermons submitted to us before February 1. Sermons must be original, unpublished, typewritten, one side of the page only, double spaced. The sermons must be addressed to the unsaved, intended to bring conviction, repentance and faith, and hoping to lead lost people to turn to Christ. Besides the ten, other acceptable sermons will be purchased at regular rates; those not used will be returned. The author, if he wishes, reserves book rights to any sermon sent.

Next Week Assistant Editor Walt Handford Edits THE SWORD

Next week the new year's issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will be edited by assistant-editor, Evangelist Walt Handford, vice-president of the Sword of the Lord Foundation. Also, he will take much of the editorial responsibility for two or three weeks while I go to Europe and the Holy Land February 11-27. We are glad to have his help regularly.

Meet Evangelist



Gillis Partin

Last summer the editor spoke for a week at Ontario Bible Conference, along with Dr. Andrew Telford of Philadelphia. The director of the conference each summer is Evangelist Gillis Partin, who spends the rest of the year in revival campaigns. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University and Dallas Theological Seminary. He has had pastoral experience. Although his revival campaigns have been mostly in New York State and surrounding territory, he is available for meetings anywhere God shall lead.

He accepts meetings only under fundamentalist's sponsorship, that is, not with churches or pastors that are modernistic and denying the fundamentals of the faith.

Many have claimed Christ under our brother's ministry. He may be addressed at 124 East Genesee Street, Auburn, New York.

ordered thoughts; you are like one now lying in the depths of the sea, now sprawled at the top of the mast. They struck me, but it pained me not; they beat me, but I felt it not; when shall I awake to seek wine once again?"

The Catholic Bible has two footnotes at the latter passage; one deals with the entire passage, saying: *"A vivid description of the evil effects, physical and psychological, of drunkenness."* The other footnote is at verse 35 and says: *"Wine makes the drunkard insensible to bodily and moral harm. His one desire is to indulge again."*

Our U. N. Trojan Horse

I personally believe that the United States of America has absolutely no business being in the ungodly United Nations. We have said so repeatedly and will continue to do so. (The editor thinks it may be necessary, but unwisely handled).

Here is another reason why: *The other day the United Nations Special Fund allocated \$1,157,600 to Cuba for their central agricultural experimental station at Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba. Uncle Sam's part of the tab was \$463,000. Our United Nations ambassador, fair-haired leftist liberal Adlai Stevenson, could have stopped the authorization but, to use the expression of Senator Homer E. Capehart, he "did nothing about it."*

Senator Capehart said that giving the funds would have the effect of "helping Cuba to show that Communism works and aiding Communist Russia in its effort to take over the United States." He also called the fund authorization "one of the many instances in which the hands of the United States are tied in matters of foreign affairs by our participating membership in almost scores of international organizations."

The Senator's conclusion was: *"We simply must untie our hands or we are going to lose this country as we know it. A lot of these international agency funds find their way into Communist satellite countries, of which Cuba is now one."*

Pray for Evangelist Sumner's meetings:
December 31 thru January 14:
Belmont Bible Church
West 29th & Walton Street
Anderson, Indiana
January 16-28:
First Regular Baptist Church
6423 Arizona Avenue
Hammond, Indiana



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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United States and Canada subscription rates: \$3.00 per year, \$5.00 for two years, \$7.00 for three years; Foreign countries \$4.50 per year, \$3.00 for two years, \$11.00 for three years. Single copies 10c.

Published every Friday of each week.

Please send all correspondence and address changes to: The Sword of the Lord Editorial and Executive office at 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois. Office of Publication: 131 West 6th St., Newton, Kansas. Second-class postage paid at Newton, Kansas.

Postmasters: Please send Form 3579 to The Sword of the Lord, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

Introducing Assistant Evangelist L. C. Stuart

Gifted Leader, Successful Pastor, Fervent Soul Winner Comes as Assistant Evangelist to the Editor, John R. Rice

In September 1960 and in October 1961, the Independent Church Fellowship of Phoenix, Arizona, invited the editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to bring a conference on revival and soul winning to that thriving and glamorous city. Helping me were Dr. Lee Roberson of Chattanooga, and Dr. Jack Hyles of Hammond, Indiana. In each case we had a blessed refreshing from Heaven, with pastors and others coming from a number of states, and with a great freshening of soul-winning zeal. Then the Independent Church Fellowship had me for sixteen days of tent revival, which was signally blessed of God.

The president, the trusted and wise leader and the spark plug for that Independent Church Fellowship, was Dr. L. C. Stuart, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. He is a long-time friend of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, a greatly beloved friend of my brother, Evangelist Joe B. Rice who died two years ago. He is also a friend of Dr. Bill Rice and has preached for him in the young people's conference at the Bill Rice Ranch, Murfreesboro.

God seemed to lay on my heart the great need for some spiritual, gifted, and consecrated man to help me in setting up conferences and revivals and otherwise to act as my personal representative and co-worker. I prayed much about it and when I mentioned the matter to Dr. Stuart, he began to pray earnestly and God seemed to lead us together. So after the first of the year Dr. Stuart comes to be my assistant evangelist.

His principal work will be helping brethren who want me for an area-wide or city-wide revival, as they organize and make plans and advertise, and in holding revival campaigns himself.

Ordinarily when a pastor or group of pastors want me for a conference or revival in their city, they cannot conscientiously work through the regular ministerial association which usually contains some modernists. So someone is needed to go among the independent and Bible-believing pastors to help them get together, to enlist men of like mind, to help select a building, set up committees, make wise plans about advertising, ushers, choir, finances, prayer meetings, delegations, etc. Dr. Stuart will come where any group want to get together for such a revival campaign or for a conference on revival and soul winning to be sponsored by the Sword of the Lord. Not only will Dr. Stuart help set up campaigns for me, but when desired, for my brother, Dr. Bill Rice and for Evangelist Robert L. Sumner, the contributing editor.

Our brother, Dr. Stuart, is forty-two years old, was born in North Carolina of a Cherokee Indian mother. His father of Scotch descent was a grandson of Confederate General Jeb Stuart.

Dr. and Mrs. Stuart have eight children, five boys and three girls, ranging from four years to twenty years.

In the war Dr. Stuart served in the Air Force as bomber pilot. Afterward he had his own landscape business and sales work; has been preaching since 1950.

Seven years ago he organized the Calvary Baptist Church in Tempe with eight members meeting in a rented store building. Since that time they have helped establish two other churches in that area and the Calvary Baptist Church has grown. Last year it won almost two hundred souls to Christ and over one hundred converts were baptized. The church has organized three mission churches which now have full-time pastors. Brother Stuart has also done extensive evangelistic work.

Dr. Stuart attended Lancaster School of the Bible, has a Master of Theology degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Doctorate of Education from Arizona State University where he also taught briefly.

Dr. Stuart is a charming and gifted man, a Spirit-filled, wise



Dr. L. C. Stuart

leader, a devoted husband and father with a remarkably happy and well-organized home.

We are anxious to have pastors everywhere know this gifted evangelist. He is available for revival campaigns and will grace any pulpit. His doctrinal convictions are the same as my own, and he goes anywhere on a freewill basis without setting any price on his services.

What His Fellow Pastors Say

In a very kindly letter Rev. Arthur H. Woods, pastor of the Bible Chapel, 2925 West Polk Street, Phoenix, writes: "Dear Dr. Rice:

"The soul-winning conference was a distinct blessing. Thank you for coming our way again and staying for the tent campaign. . . .

"My good friend, Dr. L. C. Stuart, conducted a revival campaign for us in the winter of 1957. Brother Stuart gives himself unreservedly to this type of ministry and is willing to go into the homes and deal with the people about their need of salvation. His overall work laid a foundation for a continuous program of evangelism in our church. He understands the problems of a local congregation and co-operates with the pastor."

Rev. C. R. Carfrey, pastor of the Prescott Bible Chapel in Prescott, Arizona, writes us about Dr. Stuart as follows:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Greetings, in the name of our Lord.

"I cannot tell you sufficiently what the conference in Phoenix meant to me and the few of us who were able to attend. With our work schedule as it was, and to drive 100 miles down and back made it difficult; however, we were able to be there several nights and it was a real source of food, and challenge.

"Dr. Stuart has shared the good news with me and has asked me to write you an evaluation of his ministry. He and Brother Staggs teamed up to hold a meeting for us last spring. The meeting was a real blessing to our church. The power of the Holy Ghost attends the preaching of Brother Stuart. We had souls saved, believers rededicated, and the church greatly strengthened.

"Outstanding about Brother Stuart is his firm conviction expressed boldly. Yet beneath it all is a real love and compassion that enables him to reach hearts with the Gospel. He stands for principles that are of great benefit to the church. To illustrate, one of the converts of this revival has given our church a new 'Gulbransen' church piano which will be dedicated this Sunday. We are expecting Brother Staggs and Brother Stuart to be present.

"I trust that God will greatly use Brother Stuart in his association with you and the great ministry which God is enabling you to perform. We will greatly miss his leadership, and Christian fellowship here in the Valley of the Sun."

Rev. Edwin Zellner, pastor of Faith Baptist Church of Scottsdale, near Phoenix, also has fine

Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

EVANGELIST JOHN WINSTEAD, White Oak Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, recently held a meeting at the Brookwood Original Free Will Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Thomas K. Johnson, pastor, reports that although the congregation in the evenings of the 10-day meeting only averaged 36, there were 10 decisions for salvation and 17 rededications. He reports that Brother Winstead worked hard in house-to-house visitation and is a fervent soul-winning evangelist.

EVANGELIST PAUL FERGUSON, 1909 Anderson Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee, held services November 1-12 in the Bible Baptist Tabernacle of Gainesville, Florida. Mack H. Richardson, pastor, reports 25 professions of faith and about 25 rededications. He reports that the meeting left the church with a spirit of revival and greater compassion for the lost.

REV. BILL DUDLEY, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shamrock, Oklahoma, held a meeting November 3-12 in the Masham Baptist Church of Pawnee, Oklahoma, where Rev. Jim Womack is pastor. There were two saved and joined the church plus three additions by letter and three reclaimed backsliders.

EVANGELIST BUD LYLES of The Sword Staff here in Wheaton held an eight-day meeting November 5-12 in the First Baptist Church of Lewistown, Illinois. Rev. Roger L. Clifford, pastor, reports 11 decisions for salvation and 7 who received as-

words about Brother Stuart. He writes:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"We are still rejoicing about the extended meetings in the tent here last month. This was answered prayer for many of us who are pastors here in the valley. The majority of those saved are in some of the local churches and the remainder are being sought after diligently. Praise the Lord for leading you to help in this campaign.

"Dr. Stuart informed me just last week that he felt led of the Lord to go with you in evangelistic work. My, how I do hate to see him leave our valley, but we are not questioning the wisdom of the Lord. I was Brother Stuart's assistant for almost two years and I can say that he has meant more to me in the ministry than any other man living. He has been a source of strength and encouragement to all true pastors here in the valley. He is certainly a man of faith and diligence, as his life proves. I'm saying this in order to say that I believe that he will be a great help to you as you are used around the world. Brother Rice, I'm not much at writing but I did just want to convey to you that I love this man in the Lord and do believe he is one of God's choice men today. My prayer is that many more souls will be brought to Jesus Christ as he follows the Lord in this new work.

"I was directed as the treasurer of the Independent Church Fellowship to send you this check as a further token of our appreciation and thankfulness for your labor here with us. May God bless you is my prayer."

Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, writes:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I will keep in mind your letter about Dr. L. C. Stuart. I agree with you—he is a wonderful man and should provide great assistance to your work. I will present his name to churches as they seek for evangelists."

Pastors and others who wish to consult Dr. Stuart about the possibility of a revival campaign in your church or for him, or for a united campaign for me or for a large conference on revival and soul winning sponsored by the Sword of the Lord, please write Dr. L. C. Stuart, 1017 Lola Lane, Tempe, Arizona, or write him in care of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

surance of salvation. Among those saved was a 67-year-old man who had heard Billy Sunday preach nearly 50 years ago. The pastor reports that they had the largest crowds at the services the church has ever had and that previous Sunday School records were broken. He says, "Brother Lyles' hard-hitting Gospel preaching and untiring labor in visitation made a real impact on the community."

EVANGELIST A. K. PAULEY, 2213 Bennett Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee, held a meeting recently in Cloudland, Georgia. During the meeting there was one profession of faith in Christ and a number of other decisions among Christians.

EVANGELIST CARLYLE SCOTT, 713 Whitlock Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana, held a revival meeting November 5-19 in the Maranatha Baptist Church of (Continued on page 4)

Subscription Campaign Closes Midnight, January 17

Send Subscriptions Now for Free Book and Bargain Rates

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Assistant Editor

For the past several weeks we have been offering Dr. Rice's new 314-page book on soul winning, *The Golden Path to Successful Personal Soul Winning*, free with subscriptions at bargain rates. This attractively-bound book of fifteen chapters is Dr. Rice at his very best! In these chapters you will find some of the most practical help that perhaps you have ever read on how to do personal soul winning. This is not simply a book of inspiration, though there is tremendous inspiration in the book to get busy as a soul winner. The heart-moving illustrations will get many started on the path to soul winning.

But this book is more than that. It is chock-full of practical help showing exactly how to lead a person to Christ. You will find clear teaching on how to get a conversation started with an unsaved person, how to win their confidence and friendship and then how to open the conversation about salvation. Then there is step-by-step teaching on how to use the Scriptures in leading that person to a decision. One chapter is titled "Special Plans and Occasions," in which Dr. Rice shows how to make special occasions for soul winning. This book is probably the most complete Bible textbook on personal soul winning to come out of this generation.

Bargain Rates on Subscriptions

You may have Dr. Rice's wonderful new book on soul winning absolutely free with subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD at the following bargain rates:

One Yearly Subscription, no Free Book, \$3.00
Two Yearly Subscriptions, Plus Free Book, \$5.00
Three Yearly Subscriptions, Plus Free Book, \$7.00
Five Yearly Subscriptions, Plus Free Book, \$11.00

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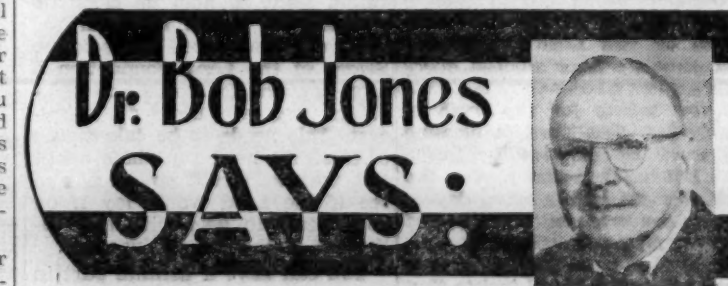
The usual price for a one year's subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD is \$3.00. Even the normal rate is unusually low for 52 large weekly issues of the paper. But now during this campaign you may have subscriptions at only \$2.00 per year when ordering ten or more subscriptions at one time and also receive Dr. Rice's large book on soul winning free.

Here is your opportunity to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to many of your friends and loved ones. Perhaps there is someone that sends you a Christmas gift and you do not have them on your list. Perhaps a year's subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD would be a tremendous thank you for a nice Christmas present.

Special Offer Closes January 17

This special subscription of bargain rates and the free book with subscriptions closes at midnight, January 17. This means that the subscription orders must be postmarked by that date in order to receive this special price and get the free book. The campaign will be over before you know it. Why not sit down and make your subscription list now and send your names.

You may want to use one of the subscription coupons from recent issues of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Otherwise, simply write out the names and addresses of those to whom you wish to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD on a piece of paper. Please mark "new" or "renewal" on the subscriptions, and give accurate addresses. Then tell us to whom you wish the book sent. Send money to cover the subscriptions at the rates listed above to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.



We quote so often from Bob Jones University "preacher boys" all over the United States and from missionaries on the foreign field; and we sometimes overlook the most interesting letters from some of our graduates who are not preachers or missionaries. I quote a paragraph of a letter from one of our graduates (whose wife is a graduate, too) who is now manager of a radio station: "I can never express my gratitude adequately for the training I received at Bob Jones University. It is as applicable today as it was the day I graduated. In addition, trends which you were predicting then are more in evidence now than ever before. Satan is attacking on every hand, and it is more difficult now to stand for principles than it was just six years ago. Although the academic training at Bob Jones University was excellent, I feel the greatest single result of my four years of training was the calcifying of my backbone

in preparation for the rigors and pressures of Christian service."

My friends, let me remind you again that you can have a real part in the work God is doing on Bob Jones University campus and through its contacts around the world. First: You can pray every day for this Christian institution. Second: You can recommend the school to the right kind of young people who can be trained for real Christian leadership. Third: You can invest some of the Lord's money in the work He is doing through this institution which He led me to found thirty-five years ago and for which He raised up my son, Bob, Jr., to be President and to carry on the work so effectively. Won't you let us hear from you? Please do. Thank you, and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
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(Advertisement)



By Jessie Rice Sandberg



A Column for Wives and Mothers

Home for the Holidays

Are you finding this Christmas-time to be the joyful, happy season you had hoped it would be? We've been singing the carols since the middle of November and I still haven't gotten my fill of them yet. Our little ones learned "There's a Song in the Air" for the first time this year and it has been very sweet to hear their voices singing it around the house.

I hope you are enjoying having the school children home for the holidays, though it no doubt means the house gets a little dirtier a little faster and there is always more work with cooking when everyone is home. Why don't you just let some of the regular work go and spend a little more time on family projects and games?

By now it is too late for mailing Christmas cards; the gift wrapping and church Christmas programs are over and done with. This would be a wonderful time to do the special informal things with your own family—the sort of things children remember for years and years to come.

At our house popcorn-making—no matter how many times we've done it—is still a special treat. Daddy Don usually does the popping because he has become the family authority on just how it should be done. The oil must be at just exactly the right temperature so that all the kernels will pop, and the measurements of oil and corn must be exact. If there

are more than a dozen unpopped grains in the bottom of the pan, then we all tease our "chief popper" about losing his touch! When we have a huge bowl filled, we all stuff ourselves far past the point of moderation!

This is a nice time for the family to spend some hours reading good books aloud together. I still remember how moved I was as a child when we read together the biography of John and Betty Stam—martyred missionaries to China. Of course family reading need not necessarily be limited completely to good Christian books. There are many classical children's books and even some "fun" books that are worth reading and which will add joy to family holidays. One of the most delightful books for reading aloud at Christmastime is *The Birds' Christmas Carol* by Kate Douglas Wiggin, used last week in the SWORD. It is not too long and contains a fair combination of laughs and tears for the whole family besides some spiritual truths worth pondering.

One of the things we have been enjoying most during the holidays is our record player—now sporting a nice new needle. Somehow the same old records we play year after year sound new and bright with the improvement in sound the new needle brings. A friend has loaned us a recording of the fairy tale opera *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdinck (sung in English) and we are enjoying it immensely along with our own album of Handel's *Messiah* (a priceless possession!) and Fred Waring's *Christmas Time* album, which contains many of the old favorite carols plus some less familiar ones as well.

Perhaps your family would enjoy getting together on a cooking project. Here is an easy and delicious confection that even small children can help to make. I think it was intended for a cookie recipe, but we found that it is rich and sweet enough to be cut in very small pieces, eaten like candy:

PEANUT BUTTER SQUARES

3 cups Special "K" cereal (corn flakes may be substituted)
1 cup crunchy-style peanut butter
½ cup sugar
½ cup white Karo syrup
6 oz. package Chocolate chips
Heat peanut butter, sugar and syrup together until melted. Stir in cereal. Pat into



By Aunt Mary

It is almost Christmas, and little boys' and girls' heads are filled with thoughts of dolls and dishes, trucks and sleds—gifts from a mythical fat gentleman in a red wool suit, wearing a white beard. But Christians want first to remember Jesus' birthday.

As I have thought of Christmas gifts for our children, for Uncle Chuck, for Grandmother and Grandfather Rice and others we love, I have remembered several verses in the Bible. James 1:17 tells us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." But the gift of Jesus, God's only Son, who was sent to be the Saviour of the whole world is the greatest gift God could give us. Romans 6:23 tells us that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Have you received this Christmas the greatest gift it is possible to get, salvation, through Jesus, the "baby of Bethlehem"? I hope you will not let Christmas come

and go rejecting this gift. Jesus died to give it to you, but you must accept it. Will you take it today?

This week's new members include a very young child, Patricia Stuart of Haw River, North Carolina; eleven-year-old Norman Lawlor in Miami Beach, Florida; a young married woman, Mrs. Harry Sudduth in Wabash, Indiana; and a dear seventy-eight-year-old friend, Miss Emma Leinbach from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. As I read the names, saw the applications with their promises to read God's Word every day, I was thrilled at the variety in ages, and states. Although the *Sword Bearer's Club* was originally planned as a children's Bible club, we are happy for every grown-up member too. Members in nearly every state and of all ages are a particular pleasure to me. May the Lord Jesus help you to be faithful to your promises to live as "a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Beat the Income Tax Deadline

(Continued from page 1)

fields, to many native pastors in other lands and to pastors here in this country who are not able to pay for it. This is a missionary enterprise just exactly like sending other money to pay the support of missionaries on the field. Those in the Lord's work need good Gospel reading to keep them on fire for soul winning just as much as they need food for their bodies and clothes to wear. This, then, is a worth-while missionary project worthy of your support.

I receive at my desk every day letters from those who could not otherwise afford THE SWORD OF THE LORD and who ask if we could send them a gift subscription. Only this morning I received a letter from a young evangelist in Holland who asked if we could possibly continue to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to him another year free. He tells us THE SWORD is invaluable in helping him to reach his own people there with the Gospel. Of course, we are sending him THE SWORD for another year but we need your help to pay for it.

A missionary working among Roman Catholics in Alberta, Canada, writes the following letter:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Greetings in the Precious Name of the Lord Jesus. We do want to thank you for sending us THE SWORD OF THE LORD during this past year, we have enjoyed every issue and we admire the stand that you are taking for the truth of the Gospel. The Lord is blessing the work of our small mission with Roman Catholics finding the Lord. We get letters every day or so from converts wanting help, and prayers. May we ask prayer especially for a mother who was saved but her husband insists that the six children go to the Roman Catholic mass with him on Sunday morning; two of the children are saved.

"Another request is for a mother who asks prayer for her two daughters who are courting Roman Catholic boys, so we go forward with the help of the Lord, evangelizing, and warning all of the dangers of Romanism. Sorry that we cannot pay for the subscription."

A native pastor from Cuba writes and says:

"Beloved Brothers in Christ:

"Since 1956 you have had the goodness of sending me THE SWORD freely. I appreciate that greatly. I was not able to pay for it in the years before 1959. Since the fall of 1959 I am receiving enough for the needs of my family, and for to pay for the paper, of course, but I am not able to send money out of the country because of law regulations.

"I serve as a pastor in a little Baptist church. I need to work secularly for my family's expenses.

I wish very much to continue receiving THE SWORD, but I feel sorry for I can not pay for it. I have learned much of the Bible, Christian living, and Christian service through THE SWORD."

From a missionary in South India comes a letter just this morning, "I have enjoyed having THE SWORD OF THE LORD. My work for Christ is an evangelist under the C.S.I. I am not able to pay for my subscription but will be grateful if you can send it again."

You could have a definite part in sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to many of these needy preachers and missionaries both here at home and in other lands. Simply mark your gift Minister and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. You will receive a receipt for your gift.

A Serious Need in Radio Fund

For three years now we have had on the air Dr. Rice's half-hour *Voice of Revival* Radio Broadcast. This happy Gospel broadcast with Dr. Rice's fine preaching and with good revival music goes out weekly over more than 40 stations. We have received wonderful reports of lives changed and souls saved through the broadcast. The broadcast owes \$4,312.93 for actual station time used. We are trusting that many of our friends would want to help us clear up this amount before we enter the new year. Then there is due to the Sword of the Lord Foundation a large amount for books and pamphlets used over the radio broadcast. This needs to be taken care of also. We need your help about this matter. Would you pray and see if the Lord would lay it on your heart to help with this obligation at the end of this year?

You can have a definite part in this very serious soul winning ministry. In devotions this morning Dr. Rice mentioned that so far this year we have received letters from 314 folk who say they have been saved through our work this year. This, of course, would not include the much larger group who have been saved but who have not written to tell us. When I invest my money I want it to be invested where it will do the most good. I am sure the Lord would have you do the same. Would you pray definitely and see if God would lead you to help in either our radio need or in the Minister and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund need before the end of the year?

We send receipts for money sent to this nonprofit organization. These receipts allow you to deduct your gifts from your income tax report.

Remember the deadline date for tax deductible gifts for this year is December 31. Gifts for this work should be sent to The Sword of the Lord Foundation, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Welcome Home

(Continued from page 1)

are present to witness the scene.

Never came so mighty a King, so perfect a Man, into the world with less fanfare; with less notice. It's all to tell us that He was not welcome in the very world His hands had made. The ignoring of Him at His birth was but a harbinger of the ignominy that awaited Him all during His life, and the shame and suffering He was to bear on the cross.

He came Home, but His folks welcomed Him not.

His was a humble birth, a lonely path, a fearful death.

He had no place where to lay His head. Everyone went to his own house; Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

However, if His own did not receive Him; if the nation of Israel rejected Him and eventually crucified Him; there were some that received Him; there still are—praise His name! In fact, all who receive Him bow in humble adoration at His feet, because in wondrous grace He is willing and glad to receive them. The wonder is not that I receive Him, but that He receives me, for this Man receiveth sinners and eateth with them.

Yes, some receive Him. Martha welcomed Him into her heart and into her home (Luke 10:38). How our oft-weary Lord must have valued this humble home in Bethany; how He must have enjoyed ministering to the need of those who loved Him, more than being ministered to by them.

Oh, yes, Zaccheus came down and received Him joyfully. And, of course, many others did; and millions have done so since; with millions He is an always welcome Guest; an always lavish Host.

As many as receive Him, to

them He gives the authority to be the children of God, even to them that believe on His name. When a sinner by faith welcomes Him, he in turn is welcomed into the blessed brotherhood of the sons of God, is brought into happy fellowship with the Son of God. Do you belong to this happy Home, where all the members are in the family of God?

Alas, while many receive Him, many also reject Him. When He was here they said: "This is the heir; come, let us kill him." And they did. And after His death they sent a message after Him, saying: "We will not have this man to reign over us." He found no home here except in the hearts of some. He has gone back to His "Home" up there. And what a welcome He got when He arrived back there! Heaven's gates swung wide when the cry was heard:

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Listen, it is He who won the mightiest battle ever waged; it is He who vanquished all the hosts of evil and who put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself: "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle . . . He is the King of glory." Millions of angels were there; millions of the redeemed of the ages past—they all shouted His praises when He came back to His heavenly Home.

Sinners had no room for Him here. He is gone to make room for his saints up there. Those who welcomed Him here shall be welcomed by Him up there (John 14:3).

The first convert to enter those heavenly portals with Him after

His death was the thief who hung by His side on the cross, telling us that His precious blood can wash the vilest clean. Both he and his Saviour were cast out by the world; he rightly, Jesus wrongly. But both were welcomed to Heaven's Home alike, for the love wherewith the Father loves the Son; such is His love to us. Oh, wonder of wonders! Through the cross of Christ God has found a righteous way to bring His banished Home again (II Sam. 14:13). You may come home today as the prodigal did, and be assured of a royal welcome. "Him that cometh to me," says Jesus, "I will in no wise cast out."

Jesus is at Home now; we are still in this world which had no home for Him; and has no home for us. Like Him, we are strangers and pilgrims. Heaven is our Home. We must not expect better treatment than what the world accorded Him. The servant is not greater than his Lord.

This world is not my home; I'm just a-passing through; If Heaven were not my home; O Lord, what would I do? The angels beckon me to Heaven's open door, And I can't be at Home in this world anymore.

Soon He'll come to welcome us there, in that Home where perfect harmony shall reign eternally; where His love is its perfect atmosphere! Amen!

(From December, 1958, HELP AND FOOD. Used by permission of Loizeaux Bros.)

With the Evangelists

(Continued from page 3)

Springfield, Ohio. Rev. Arthur Houk, pastor, reports two confessions of faith for salvation, one who came for baptism and church membership and seven Christians who came for consecration. This is Brother Scott's seventh revival in the Springfield, Ohio, area and some converts in his earlier meetings attended this good meeting.

Home study

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Searching the Scriptures for the Saviour

By Elizabeth Rice Handford

Luke 2

The Fullness of Time Came

Adam wrapped himself in his garments of slain animals, and waited, pondering the promised Seed who would bruise Satan's head. Noah, moved with fear, built an ark and became an heir of a promise he could not see. Abraham laid his only-begotten son on the faggots, trembling, but trusting that God Himself would furnish the lamb. Hebrew fathers, fearing the angel of death, sprinkled blood with hyssop on the doorposts of their houses, and waited for redemption. Bitten by fiery serpents, they gazed on a brazen serpent, and waited for healing. Overwhelmed by sin, they sacrificed uncounted multitudes of lambs whose blood could not wash away a single sin. But they sacrificed them in obedience, waiting for the Saviour. Balaam saw the Star that would come out of Jacob, but it was not nigh. Rahab hung the scarlet cord out of her window, waiting. Shepherds, kings, prophets and priests, wise men and poor, searched the Scriptures, and looked for redemption.

The centuries rolled on. Men waited, sitting in the shadow of death. Then, "when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law" (Gal. 4:4, 5). At long last, the Saviour Himself came down. The Word became flesh. He is God, but He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man" (Phil. 2:7). The exact moment finally came when Jesus would divest Himself of all the luminous glory of heaven to come into this sin-darkened world.

Abraham rejoiced to see that day. All the saints of heaven shouted for joy. Multitudes of angels sang. Shepherds came to see, and believe. Wise men sought Him over burning desert sands. And everywhere in the world, forgiven sinners thank God that on that unspeakably holy day, the fullness of time came, and that He gave His Son for our salvation.

Clues Across

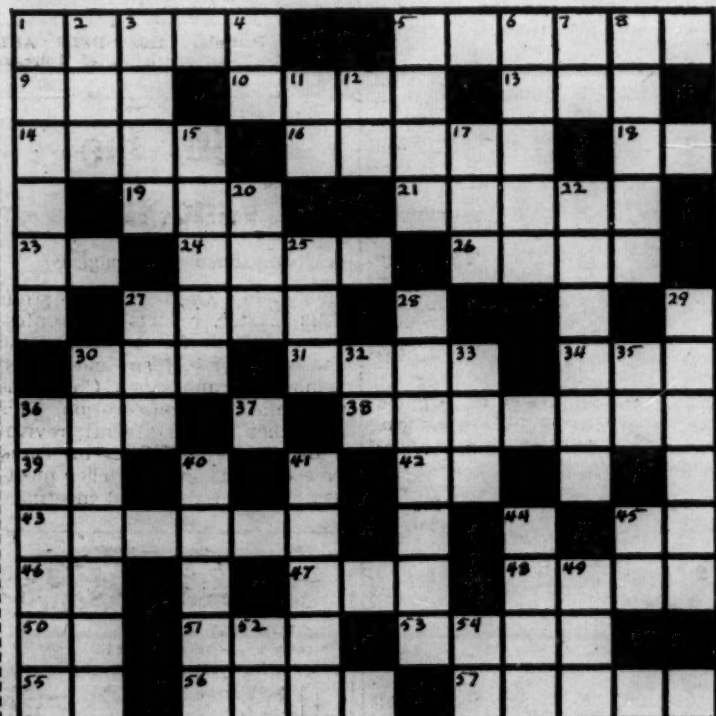
- 1 "the _____ said unto them, Fear not"
- 5 "he came by the Spirit into the _____"
- 9 "_____ behold, I bring you good tidings"
- 10 "came to Nazareth, and was subject _____ them"
- 13 "this shall be a sign unto _____"
- 14 rocks near surface of water
- 16 "his arms and his feet like in _____ to polished brass" Dan. 10 (use present-day spelling)
- 18 "And _____ it was, that, while they were there"
- 19 "I am the _____, the truth, and the life" John 14
- 21 "after that they _____ not ask him any question at all" Luke 20
- 23 "this child _____ set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel"
- 24 "she brought forth her first _____ son"
- 26 "see _____ thing which is come to pass"
- 27 color of ribband which Israelites were to put on fringe of garments (Num. 15:38)
- 30 "Until I make thy _____ (s) thy footstool" Acts 2
- 31 "peradventure for a good man some would even _____ to die" Rom. 5
- 34 "even unto God with my voice; and he gave _____ unto me" Ps. 77
- 36 "with fastings and prayers night and _____"
- 37 "she was of _____ great age"
- 38 "a _____, which is Christ the Lord"
- 39 Latin for and

Clues Down

- 42 Hebrew letter preceeding Psalm 119:129
- 43 "he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's _____"
- 45 "now lettest thou thy servant depart _____ peace"
- 46 initials of two people of great faith (Heb. 11:31, 5)
- 47 "_____ days were accomplished"
- 48 "the _____ hath made known unto us"
- 50 son of Judah (Gen. 38:1-3)
- 51 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot _____, promised" Titus 1
- 53 "whatsoever ye do in word or _____, do all in the name of the Lord" Col. 3
- 55 initials of husband and son of Hannah (I Sam. 1:19, 20)
- 56 "as unto a light that shineth in a _____ place" II Pet. 1
- 57 "offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither _____ pleasure therein" Heb. 10
- 1 "they were sore _____"
- 2 "as the days of _____ were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" Matt. 24
- 3 "the child _____, and waxed strong in spirit"
- 4 initials of two kings (Prov. 31:1; Isa. 6:1)
- 5 "the saying which was _____ them concerning this child"
- 6 one of the gifts brought the baby Jesus (Matt. 2:11)
- 7 river in Italy
- 8 "because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your _____" James 4

Deadline: January 1, 1962

Puzzle No. 51



Mail to: Puzzle Editor, Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois
PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

(Cut along dotted lines)

- 11 initials of towns where Jesus raised widow's son and turned water to wine (Luke 7:11; John 2:1)
- 12 "all went _____ be taxed"
- 15 "we have not followed cunningly devised _____ (s)" II Pet. 1
- 17, 36 down "there went _____ a _____ from Caesar Augustus"
- 20 "unto _____ is born this day in the city of David a Saviour"
- 22 "there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was _____"
- 25 "though they be _____ like crimson, they shall be as wool" Isa. 1
- 27 "have given a _____ for an harlot" Joel 3
- 28 "_____ him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger"
- 29 "I have an _____ to thee, O captain" II Kings 9
- 30 "wist ye not that I must be about my _____ business?"
- 32 "_____ the angels were gone away from them into heaven"
- 33 the first woman
- 35 abbr. for gold
- 36 see 17 down
- 40 "in the same country shepherds abiding in the _____"
- 41 "Who can _____ the mighty acts of the Lord?" Ps. 106
- 44 "between blood and blood, between _____ and _____" Deut. 17
- 45 father of Shuppim and Huppim (I Chron. 7:12)
- 49 "wherewith the _____ number of them is to be redeemed" Num. 3
- 52 initials of son and husband of Sarah (Gen. 21:2, 3)
- 54 initials of father and mother of Samuel (I Sam. 1:19, 20)

Free! for correct, prompt answers to
Puzzle Number 51



This story, written by Evangelist Robert L. Sumner, tells how God called and supplied the needs and gave revivals to a young evangelist, John R. Rice. There are thirty-two pages, a beautiful pamphlet printed in brown, with pictures of Dr. Rice, his wife and six daughters. It will encourage your heart, stir you to trust the Lord and win souls.

ATTENTION!

Due to postal regulations we cannot send bulk mailings from December 10 until after the Christmas rush. This will make your puzzle booklets and coupons late, but please be patient and we will send them as soon as possible.

THE RULES

1. Fill in blanks according to clues given. Answers must be complete and correct. We use the Scofield Reference Bible in making up the clues.
2. PRINT name and address in blank below puzzle. This coupon serves as your address label for envelope containing your prize. If you print your answers on a separate sheet in order to not cut your Sword, put them in the same form as the puzzle rather than in columns. Entries will not be returned.
3. If paper arrives after deadline, place date of arrival on puzzle entry. Answer to Puzzle Number 51 will appear in January 12 issue.
4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. Save these coupons! End of the year prizes are: World Bible with concordance, or Rainbow edition of the Bible for young readers, (King James Version) for 48 coupons; a compact and easy to handle World Bible (King James Version) for 40

The Meaning of Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3).

The Apostle Peter speaks of Christ who "hath once suffered for sins... and being put to death in the flesh" (I Peter 3:18). God's "enfleshment" in Christ means that the pre-existent Christ was embodied in human flesh, demonstrated in human life, exemplified in human action, crystallized in human form. That child Jesus was the Saviour in miniature—in whom, without restriction of essence or suppression of functions, dwelt "all the fullness of the God-head bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Christ was God manifest in the flesh—and His every muscle was a pulley divinely swung. His every nerve divine handwriting. His every bone divine sculpture. Christ who shares that plurality of deity expressed in the story of creation was "made flesh," "made of a woman."

Christmas means a—

II. Manger

Coldly the world, which later cruelly thrust Jesus out on the point of a spear, received Jesus on a pallet of manger straw. Messiah's birth chamber was a stable—not a palace, not a human habitation.

What abasement! How wonderful for us that the Lord of glory was so humbled and abased for us—the vile and sinful progeny of Adam. Thinking of Christ stripping Himself of His robes and roles of glory, Flavel said: "If the sun had been turned into a wondering atom, if the most glorious angel in heaven had changed into a fly, it had been nothing to the abasement of the Lord of Glory."

Born as the very poorest are born without attendants, He was He through whom God worked and works sublimities without display. Listen at the manger! You will hear the voices of heaven's singers. Look upon the manger! You will see the Christ who came down from the heights of deity to the depths of humanity, down from heaven's honors to earth's humiliation, down from heaven's coronations to earth's curses, down from heaven's delights to earth's defamations, down from the glory place to the gory place, down from heaven's riches to earth's poverty. At the manger, we understand the apostle's words: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (II Corinthians 8:9).

Christmas means a—

III. Marking

The lowly birthplace of Jesus was marked by a star. "When they heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (Matthew 2:9-10).

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Answer to Puzzle No. 48

OUT OF THEE
M EDAR EAR S
I SMOTE MU AH
DEEP S ANKLE
SHALL HE COME
T MEET A HH P
A NO SWEAT
L FIG BEAST P
I UNTIL I HAI
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T YE FROE U C
EH NOR THREE
DESTROY HANDS

That star of marking the house to which the wise men from the East came testifies that the fulness of time had come, that the prophecies were accomplished, that He who had a name "as ointment poured forth" had come with a coming that stirred earth and heaven, the sea and the dry land. For no other child did the heavens assume a new star. For no other child did wise men come from the East "to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). For no other child did angels descend from glory. For no other child did heaven and earth bear witness—being marked by prophecy and a star.

But I mean something else by the marking. What mean I? I mean that this Christ, coming into the world by virgin womb, and small enough to be held in a woman's two hands and weak enough to feed at a woman's breast, cradled in a manger, has Christianized the calendar of the world. This Jesus whom neither calendars nor clocks nor contemporary historians took note of, has bent the date-lines of all nations around his lowly cradle. Today, as through all the days of all the years, the world over, the dates on newspapers printed, the dates on checks drawn, the dates on deeds recorded, the dates on money coined or spent, the dates on cornerstones placed, the dates on monuments erected, the dates on documents filed, the dates on letters written do testify. Jesus bent the date lines of all nations around his manger cradle. The Greeks tried to date time from their Olympiads. The Romans tried to date time from the founding of their imperial city. Justinian tried to date time from the tax levies he made. LaPlace tried to date time from conjunctions of certain planets. The French Revolutionists tried to date time from the year one of their revolution. And all failed—miserably, woefully. But what the Jews could not do, what the Greeks could not do, what the Romans could not do, what the French could not do in the matter of dating time, Jesus did—gloriously did. Before He came, the ages awaited Him. Since He came, the ages rise out of Him.

Christmas means—

IV. Music

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them" (Luke 2:20).

As the sun went down in the western sea that day, the stars came out, and the Messiah's star shone bright. As the Temple shepherds watched their flocks by night, in the midst of the starlit silence appeared a glory—and a voice. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:8-11).

The shepherds, filled with awe at the shining presence and the wondrous words, did not speak. Moving not, they gazed. And then suddenly, as they looked, the single messenger became a choir—and the night echoed with divinest music. "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds" (Luke 2:16-18).

As there was music long ago when "upon the midnight clear," came "that glorious song of old," so still at Christmas there is music.

"Still thro' the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats

O'er all the weary world: Above its sad and lonely plains (Continued on page 6)

The Meaning of Christmas

(Continued from page 5)

They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing."
—Edmund H. Sears

Let us, listening to the Christmas music, vocal and instrumental, remember that the Christian life is music in harmony with the will of God. Let us never forget that the centuries become, as it were, a mighty choir lifting their increasing hallelujahs to Christ's name. Higher and ever higher rises their sublime refrain.

But, with all the Christmas joy, the Christmas greetings, the Christmas merrymaking, and though many now rejoice because the true Light shineth, Christmas, for some means—

V. Mourning

Related tragically are these verses: "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. . . . Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, in Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not" (Matthew 2:3, 16-18).

So, though not for the same cause, do we find amid the glad ones whom we greet at Christmas, the sad ones. There are those who rejoice. There are those who weep. Some mourn the loss of loved ones. While some laugh beneath the mistletoe, some grieve beside coffins or over graves. While some faces are as bright as fires aglow on home hearthstones, some faces are shadowed with intangible gloom. While some rejoice and are grateful for abounding health, some pine mournfully because of wasted, disease-smitten bodies.

And some have not joy because they have not the righteousness which Christ, as Saviour, first imputes and then imparts. And some have not joyful peace because they know not the peace which Jesus, who was born to save His people from their sins, makes and then bestows. Some have not joy because they have not learned in the light of the "dayspring from on high" their sinfulness—and have not returned to him for salvation. Some find Christmas a time of mourning because they have no calm in their conscience. The heavenly wind has not blown upon them amid life's fretful fevers. So many miss the joy because they set not their feet in the path of the just, which "shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Yes, Christmas for many means mourning.

Moreover, Christmas means—

VI. Meeting

In the birth of Jesus, heaven and earth meet. Coleridge, speaking of philosophy, said: "In wonder all philosophy began, in wonder all philosophy ends, and admiration fills up the interspace." Thinking of Jesus' natal night, of Bethlehem, of the angels, of the inn in which there was no room for the Prince of glory, of the cattle stall in which He was born, of the fact that He was God held in a woman's arms, of those who "wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds" (Luke 2:18), we say, in the words of Shakespeare:

"O wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful,
And yet again wonderful."

Heaven and earth meet. Shepherds served and angels sang. We read of "shepherds abiding in the fields," "the angel of the Lord," and "a multitude of the heavenly hosts." The angels went back to heaven. The shepherds went to Bethlehem. Heaven and earth were in touch, and heaven took the initiative. The candle did not reach forth to the sun; the sun stooped to the candle. The glowworm did not reach up to the stars; the

star stooped to touch the glowworm. Humanity did not seek God; God sought humanity. "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all" (John 3:31).

He who is from heaven and is above all is heaven's bread for earth's hunger, heaven's light for earth's darkness, heaven's grace for earth's guilt, heaven's life for earth's death.

And during the days of His flesh on earth this Christ never lifted a finger, never took a step, never breathed a word to injure any. He welcomed to His love the most neglected of the outcast, the poorest of the poor, the saddest of the sad, the vilest of the vile—inviting them to His holy and happy home in Heaven.

But—'tis said 'tis true—Christmas means a—

VII. Marring

I mean by "marring" that men mar the beauty of Christmas by riotous living rather than by reverence of the holy realities which the Christmas season brings to mind. Instead of worship, wickedness—instead of prayer, perversity—instead of devotion, drunkenness—instead of spiritual delight, carnal dancing—instead of expressions of gratitude, utterances of profane and vulgar thoughts—instead of peace, Mars tying crepe to many doorknobs—instead of consecration, carnality and love, by hellish alchemy, changed into lust—instead of hands handling the Bible, hands holding booze bottles—instead of gratitude, greed and grab and get. As incongruous as chunks of ice for pillows, as rattlesnakes on playgrounds, are many things we see and hear at Christmas time. How many things people do and rejoice in at Christmas season are as man's mean paint on God's fair lilies, as the stupidity of vandals in an art gallery.

Yes, poor understanding have many of the meaning of Christmas. At Christmas time we should remember that "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, godly in this present world" (Titus 2).

Last of all, I say that Christmas means the—

VIII. Master

This Christ whom the disciples called Master is He who, in eternity, rested on the bosom of the Father without a mother and in time rested on the bosom of a mother without a father—Son of man and Son of God, just as old as His Heavenly Father and ages older than His earthly mother. He who was in the manger later mastered disease into health, blindness into sight, deafness into hearing, lameness into suppleness and strength of muscles, leprosy into cleanness, storms into calm, scarcity of bread into food plenteous, dumbness into speech, death into life, and grace into resurrection glory.

He mastered sin, Satan, suffering, death, the grave, and hell. And through him we can be more than conquerors—mastering all things that mar proper observance of Christmas, mastering the mind so that it thinks God's thoughts after Him, mastering Satan by resistance until he flees from us, mastering our bodies until we shall be "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal bodies"—to the glory of Him who "being in the form of God . . . made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant . . . and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

At this Christmas season, every heart ought to say, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15). You did not ask God for this gift; it was freely bestowed.

At this Christmas season, will you receive presents from earthly friends and reject the Gift of gifts from God? Base ingratitude! You

The Land of Beginning Again

(Continued from page 1)

all the families on earth through him."

Abraham was already seventy-five years old. He had already established himself in the land of Ur. Evidently he had thousands upon thousands of acres of good ranch land. He had so many cattle it took some eight hundred menservants to care for them! Evidently he was also rich in silver and gold. Doubtless he and his beautiful wife, Sarah, lived in a magnificent home. He had security.

Now God wanted him to leave everything! Leave his ranch, his home, his lands, and—at the age of seventy-five—journey to a far country he had never even seen, and begin life anew!

It was a tremendous decision for him to make. Should he leave behind his people, his property, his friends? Doubtless he was perplexed and burdened about the great decision he faced. "And yet," he may have thought, "in spite of all my wealth, I have no real rest of heart. Although others may envy me my position and prestige, my life is actually barren—as barren," he thought sadly, "as Sarah's womb."

He was tired of halfway measures. He was tired of half-trusting, half-doubting, of incomplete obedience. He was tired of burying loved ones who died without hope. He would turn to God and from now on God's way would be his way. He would live where God wanted him to live. He would be what God wanted him to be. Perhaps he felt like Alice Chase Chinn who wrote:

For each of us who have traveled the road
Of sorrow, misfortune and sin,
There's a wonderful place of courage and hope
Called the Land of Beginning Again!

I. Trusting

The biblical description of the days that followed are summed up in a few brief words—

"So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him."

The Abraham Ranch was a beehive of activity. Herds were being rounded up for the long march toward Canaan. His eight hundred menservants and their families were busily engaged in packing the possessions they could carry with them on the long journey. Lovely Sarah worked excitedly from morning till night. Household goods were strapped on the backs of camels and donkeys for the long trip.

At last the great day of departure arrived, and Abraham and Sarah took one last look at the home they loved so well before leaving it forever.

He's Gone Crazy

Perhaps some of the neighbors came over to say good-by. I can just see them standing together talking with Abraham.

"I understand it's deer season in Colorado now, Abe. You goin' out there for a little hunting trip?" one of them asked.

"No," Abraham replied, "I have something much more important than hunting on my mind."

"Maybe you figure on spending a couple of months in a fishing trip down in Florida," suggested another.

"No, I have something far more

can commit no greater sin than that of rejecting Jesus Christ. Everything you ever did fades into insignificance in the face of your refusal of the gift of God. Confess your utter worthlessness and simply accept the Lord Jesus Christ, God's "unspeakable gift."

At this Christmas season, we may not bring Him as costly a present as the Magi brought, but we can bring to His feet and cradle the frankincense of our joy, the pearls of our tears, the kiss of our love, the prostration of our worship, move someone to faith in Him—and give testimony that Jesus, our Saviour, our Lord, is Son of man without sin, Son of God with power and glory, whose name is ceaseless music at the throne which overlooks the world.

(From the book, THE SINNER'S SAV-
IOUR. Used by permission of Broadman
Press, Publishers.)

important than fishing to do," Abraham answered.

"I'll bet I know what you have on your mind," shrewdly suggested another. "Since you have spent most of your life gathering riches, I'll bet you're off on a business venture! I wouldn't be surprised if you aren't going down to Texas to buy up some oil land!"

"No," Abraham answered again, "making money will never again be the chief interest of my life. I'm going to make an investment of far greater value than money—I am going to invest my life for God."

"Then where are you going?" they asked.

Abraham faced them steadily. "I really do not know where I am going," he said. "God asked me to leave my family, my home, and my country and follow Him. I do not know where God will lead me, but I intend to follow Him as long as I live!"

This was the exact truth. He really did not know where he was going. Although I was a very small boy, I can still remember soldiers of the First World War singing:

"I don't know where I'm going
But I'm on my way."

So it was with Abraham, for Hebrews 11:8 tells us, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Doubtless his friends said, "He's gone crazy over religion!" But actually Abraham had never done so wise a thing in all his life. He was determined to go where God wanted him to go. How would he care for his family? He would trust God to provide for their needs. How would he defend himself against the enemies he might encounter on the way? He would trust God for protection. Who would repay him for all he had left behind? For what he was to suffer? For giving up a palace to live in a tent? He would trust God to reward him.

So Abraham went—trusting God.

Good neighbor, why don't you and I, like Abraham, make a new start today. Why don't we rededicate ourselves to God. Why not purpose in our hearts that we will trust God to reward us. Whether men appreciate our ministry or not, we will do what we do for Jesus' sake. We will live sacrificially and honestly and trust God to lead, protect, and reward.

You and LeTourneau

Every summer my famous big brother, John Rice, used to go to Toccoa, Georgia, for a conference. I would go with him. We would conduct a conference on soul winning and revival at the beautiful Lake Louise Hotel and Conference Ground. The lake, hotel, and grounds, were built and are controlled by the famous Christian millionaire, R. G. LeTourneau. Now I have never had the good fortune of meeting Mr. LeTourneau. I heard him speak one time when I was a student in Moody Bible Institute and can still remember the powerful message he brought. But although I have spoken at Lake Louise time and time again, he has never heard me speak, and probably does not even know I am alive.

Now I know nothing at all about Mr. LeTourneau and his millions other than what I have read and heard. But I understand that he is extremely wealthy. Rumor has it that he sold his Toccoa Plant to Westinghouse for approximately thirty million dollars, and that alone is enough to last him the rest of his life, if he dies when he ought to! I do know that he is vitally interested in spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you do not know him either, but let us do some supposing. Let us imagine that Mr. LeTourneau knows you. Perhaps he slipped into an auditorium to hear you preach. Perhaps he was a visitor in your Sunday School class. Perhaps he heard you sing in the choir. Let us imagine that he was strangely attracted by your ministry and that he made you the following proposition—

Olsen Anniversary

Dr. Ivan E. Olsen was honored at the 25 anniversary of his pastorate in the Berean Fundamental Church of North Platte, Nebraska. Dr. Theodore Epp, internationally-known director of the Back to the Bible broadcast, preached in the evening service of the anniversary celebration on November 19. During the past 25 years under Dr. Olsen's ministry the Berean Fundamental Church has taken in 1,047 members, and has given nearly four hundred thousand dollars for missions.

that you and he become partners. It will be your job to serve the Lord Jesus at every opportunity. You will put God first in your life. Your church will come before your business. Your Sunday School class before your job. It will be more important to you to go to choir rehearsal than to take overtime work. In brief, you are to begin today to live the way you feel would be most profitable and pleasing to God.

Mr. LeTourneau, on the other hand, would make money for both you and himself. You need never have any financial worry. If you spend so much time studying the Bible, visiting the sick, attending jail services, teaching Sunday School classes, winning souls from house to house, etc., that your income drops off, Mr. LeTourneau, with all his wealth, would be there for you to fall back upon. You need not worry about old age, for he would take care of you then. If your children need to go to college, Mr. LeTourneau would help you to provide for them.

Wouldn't that be wonderful! Wouldn't it be good to make serving God the main concern of your life! Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to serve Him with an utter abandonment of care and anxiety! How eagerly you would accept such a proposition from Mr. LeTourneau!

Of course Mr. LeTourneau might die and leave you destitute. He might change his mind. He might lose every penny he owns before breakfast in the morning. But you would gladly take that risk.

You would trust a mere man like Mr. LeTourneau. How tragic that you are not as willing to trust God! God, who has all the wealth of the world, and yet you are afraid to trust Him. He never changes, will never die, will never lose His power—and you are afraid to trust Him!

How tragic that so many Christians serve God so little because they feel they cannot afford to do so. Sunday School teachers have no time to prepare their lessons because they feel their work on the farm, in the home, at the office to be of so much more importance. After all, a man gets paid for working in a filling station or a grocery store but actually feels he does not get paid for work he does for God!

There are literally thousands of young men who have been called of God to preach but will not do it for fear of starving to death. Not long ago I drove my car into a garage in Kansas City to have some work done on it. A young man, head of the service department, came smilingly out to greet me.

"We may not look like it, Mr. Rice," he said, "but actually you

(Continued on page 7)

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and I are just alike! God has called both of us to do the work of an evangelist."

"Fine," I told him, and then asked him where he was preaching. He replied that he was not preaching anywhere just now. He was holding down two jobs. Why? Because he was married and had two little children. "I must not let them starve," he explained, but as soon as he could afford it he was going to do evangelistic work.

"We are not alike at all," I told him. "God called me to preach and I am preaching and trusting God to help me care for my lovely wife and four children. God called you to preach but you are not preaching—you believe the Nash garage can take better care of you than God! Both God and the Nash garage called you and you decided you would rather trust the garage! Don't say you are like me if you believe the Nash garage will love you better, care for you better and reward you better than God will!"

I Won't Be Back

Most of my life I have known that God wanted me to be an evangelist. It was with this in mind that I left the little church in Gainsville, Texas, and went, with my wife and baby, to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. For more than three years Cathy and I worked and went to school. I went to school in the morning and worked afternoons and nights. I had a job taking sightseers around Chicago. I took visitors with their suitcases and trunks from the railway and bus stations to the Institute and back again.

I had a night job from about six to eleven with the Railway Express. At the same time I became pastor of a church in Dubuque, Iowa, almost two hundred miles away. I would usually get up about three o'clock on Sunday mornings and drive to Dubuque, round up Sunday School youngsters, teach a Sunday School class, preach in the morning service, preach in the afternoon, conduct young people's services, preach that night, and then drive back to Chicago where I would arrive at four or five o'clock the next morning. I worked long and hard hours. (I needed more money than the average student because of the illness and resultant deafness of our first baby, Betty Ann.) At the same time I took the full Pastor's Course, plus courses in music, children's work, teacher training, radio work, etc. Cathy (Mrs. Bill) worked at Marshall Fields, serving tables in the afternoons, worked as a baby sitter at odd hours, and went to evening classes.

As I look back, I wonder how on earth we did it. We went at a killing pace, and when graduation day finally came, we were both simply exhausted. But, at that, those were wonderful, happy years. I was preparing to do the work of an evangelist! I ate, slept, and lived revivals! God had called me and I could hardly wait for the time to come when my preparation at Moody would be over and I could enter the full-time evangelistic field. In the meantime, I preached, led singing, went on deputation groups, conducted jail and hospital services, passed out thousands of tracts, did personal work on the streets.

At last graduation day came! After making sure God did not have other educational plans for me at that time, I felt I was ready to go into full-time revival work.

Then I received one of the greatest surprises of my life. I asked John Rice to recommend me as an evangelist in THE SWORD OF THE LORD and—he said he could not do it! He must be honest, he told me, with his readers. I was young, inexperienced, had not proven myself in the evangelistic field. He did not know if I could conduct a successful revival or not. I was a youngster just out of Bible school. He could not conscientiously recommend to pastors that they have any other student under the same circumstances, and even though I was his brother, he felt it would not be honest to recommend me to pastors when he did not know whether or not I could deliver the goods! I was crestfallen but realized that he was entirely right.

However, John said that he would be willing to announce to

the people that I felt called to be an evangelist, that I was honest, and sincere although inexperienced. He did put such a statement in THE SWORD and I thought surely I would receive a flood of revival invitations.

But no flood came. It didn't even rain! In fact, it didn't even sprinkle! Finally one letter of inquiry came. It came from Kenneth Beilby, First Baptist Church of Gas City, Indiana. He had waited too late to get a good evangelist, he frankly told me, and so might have to use someone like me! After an exchange of letters I was definitely invited and accepted the invitation.

I waited for other invitations and none came. What was I to do? If I resigned the good job I now had with the Railway Express and received no more invitations, how would I make a living for my family? How could I make the last two payments on our new Ford car? How could I pay the rent?

Cathy settled the entire matter by asking me a simple question: "Does God want you to be an express man or an evangelist?" It was as simple as that.

When I went to work that night, I told Mr. Larry, the big boss, I was leaving and told him what I planned to do. He asked what I would do after the two weeks were up and I told him that I did not know. He urged me to merely take a leave of absence. He said he and other officials had been watching me. They would soon make me a foreman. I could go places, if I stayed with the Railway Express. I thanked him warmly but told him I was going to be an evangelist regardless of what happened. If I lost my car, I would just lose it. If my family and I starved, we would simply starve. "I won't be back," I told him. I meant it.

The Gas City campaign lasted three weeks instead of two. During the last week I received another invitation for a revival—this time from the First Baptist Church of Allegan, Michigan. During the second campaign I received an invitation from Orestes, Indiana. During this meeting I received an invitation from another church and another, and so it has gone for these blessed years. Living from "hand to mouth"? Yes, but from God's hand!

He Is Able

Good neighbor, why not begin a new life at the beginning of this year, a new life of trust and faith in God. Serve God—not a board of deacons, not a church, not a group of people. And trust God rather than man to reward you. Do not preach or sing or teach or visit in order that men may pay or praise you. Rather, have an agreement with God that you will do what He would have you do and you will trust Him to reward you in due season. Remember that God is a "rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

When you are afraid, remember, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:6).

When you are discouraged, remember God has said, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

When you feel helpless, remember, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

When in need, remember, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Abraham left the old life of doubting to enter into one of faith and trust in "the Land of Beginning Again."

II. Confessing

Abraham loved the Lord. He set out to live a new life of trust and service. But he still had his body of clay and he was not perfect. There were pitfalls of temptation in his pathway, and there came a day when Abraham fell into sin. He suffered from a famine in the land of Canaan and "Abraham went down into Egypt to sojourn there." His beautiful wife, Sarah, went with him, of course. The king of Egypt desired her and because Abraham was afraid, he said she was his sister but neglected to say that she was also his wife. The king desired the beautiful woman for a wife and

would have taken her had the fact not been revealed that she was the wife of Abraham. Therefore Abraham and his family were sent from the land of Egypt.

Bluntly, Abraham had sinned. He had backslidden. And there were two courses open to him, the same two courses that are open to every backslider. He could be hardhearted, hardheaded and rebellious. He could try to act as though nothing had ever been wrong and go on with his sin unconfessed and, therefore, unforgiven. Or he could humbly confess his sin to God and go back to the place of service God had appointed him.

Abraham chose the latter. He went back to Canaan—back to "Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord" (Gen. 13:3, 4). The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

That is what Abraham did. He was wrong. He acknowledged it. He came back to Bethel. He had left Bethel to go into backsliding. He left backsliding to come back to Bethel and confess his sin. Here he found pardon, he found forgiveness. The Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

Many churches are cold and formal today because the members are not willing to confess their sins. Many an individual has a cold heart, a barren life, and a ruined testimony because of an unwillingness to humbly confess sins. Many a church goes year in and year out with no souls saved, no lives changed, and no hearts blessed because of deacons, elders, trustees, teachers, and laymen who are unwilling to confess their sins.

Some years ago I went to a church in a small town for an eight-day revival campaign. They told me there had been no conversions for about twenty years in the little church. The building was a lovely one. It was made of brick, had an auditorium seating about 200 and a side-auditorium that would seat an additional 175.

The opening night there was just a handful of people. The weather was bitter cold. I proposed that the pastor and I would begin visiting up one street and down another until every person in the little town had been invited to the revival. He thought the idea was foolish and besides he was "very busy," so I went alone in sub-zero weather. (I actually pushed so many doorbells that I froze the end of my finger which became infected and gave me trouble for over a month.) God blessed the visitation and in a couple of nights the church was packed.

The messages seemed to be refreshing and yet I could get no one to make a move. Not a soul came forward for rededication or salvation. On Thursday night a number did raise hands for prayer but no one came forward. We sang longer than usual during the invitation, but to no avail. Finally I decided to close, when a deacon, an old man in whose house I had been staying, wept his way to the front. He told the people that he knew why the church was barren, why no souls had been saved in the last twenty years. It was because, he said, he, the chairman of the board of deacons, was a thief!

He told how he had defrauded the railroad years before. It seems he had bought a ticket for a little town some twelve miles away. It began to rain and he decided to stay on the train and go all the way to Minneapolis, Minnesota. But the conductor neglected to ask him for his ticket and he made the long trip to Minneapolis on a twelve-mile ticket! Some twenty years had passed and, he said, everytime he tried to pray the Lord reminded him that he was a crook. There had been no conversions in the church, and now, during the special revival campaign, there had been no conversions although the church was enjoying the largest attendance of its history. He felt like an Achan in the camp and wanted to con-

fess his sin to God and to the people.

When he had finished his story, I again gave the invitation and Christian people came forward, one after another, to confess their sins. An invitation was then given to the unsaved and they literally crowded down the aisles! Seventy-two people came forward that night, over half of them were first-time decisions for Christ.

This man told me later on that he had often felt God tugging at his heart, but he was the chairman of the board of deacons and felt a man in his position simply could not afford to come forward for rededication like an ordinary church member.

Actually, however, it is far more important for those in places of leadership to confess and forsake their sins than it is for the ordinary member of the church.

Good neighbor, if you would know the blessing of God on your life, then be quick to confess your sins to God. Should you confess them publicly? Yes, if the public knows about them. I urge you to return to Bethel, back to the place where you left the Lord. It is entirely possible that you will be a stronger Christian than ever before.

Their hope, like a cloak that wraps us around,

Makes stronger our purpose to win,
And love, truth and faith are easily found
In this Land of Beginning Again.

III. Loving

When Abraham went to Canaan, he took Lot, his nephew, with him. We do not know, but evidently Lot was the adopted son of Abraham. Probably the boy was already grown when Abraham took him over. Probably his uncle had given him a start in the cattle-raising business and he had become a man of considerable wealth. He had large herds and flocks. In fact, Lot and Abraham had so many head of livestock that "the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land" (Gen. 13:6, 7).

It seemed that a range war between the herdmen of the two men was inevitable. And there is little doubt but that the herdmen of Abraham would have won. But here we see the great character of this man who had come to the Land of Beginning Again. Instead of reminding Lot that he was a trespasser on his uncle's land; instead of accusing the younger man of ingratitude; instead of driving his nephew off the range, Abraham said to Lot, "... Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left" (Gen. 13:8, 9).

How loving and gracious Abraham was! There are two things that motivated his action.

First, the "Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land." Unsaved people, heathen people, were all around them. Abraham and Lot were the only people of God these lost ones knew. What would their opinion of God be if Abraham and Lot fought one another!

Good neighbor, there are unsaved people around you, too. There is many a man and woman who never attend church. They never read the Bible. The only thing they know of God is what they see in you. Think carefully, then, before you engage in a fight with your Christian brethren over personal matters. Perhaps nothing in the world so hinders the work of the Lord Jesus Christ as does the fussing and fighting of our churches. All over the land we have churches that have split and then the splits have split! We have factions and cliques in our churches that dishonor God and bring reproach upon the name of Christ.

And almost every time the fusses are over personal matters. Hardly ever are the fusses and

fight over doctrinal matters. We fuss about who will sing the solo in the choir, who will be the Sunday School superintendent, who will teach the young married women's class, who will ramrod the Ladies' Aid, who will play the organ, and every other conceivable matter. And while we are calling one another names, we wonder why the unsaved people are never interested in our churches, why our testimonies have no more effect on the lost than pouring water on a duck's back.

Remember, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

For the sake of the lost, Abraham was willing to suffer ill-treatment at the hands of a brother without making a fight, without any attempt at getting even.

The second reason Abraham gave in to Lot may be found in his words, "we be brethren."

Christian fellowship is sweet and precious. Do not lose the friendship and fellowship of others of like precious faith if you can possibly help it.

Many times we lose friends because we insist on "standing up for our rights," and "saying just what we think." Of course this often enables us to have our own way—at the price of a friend.

As an evangelist I have services in churches all over our nation. I tell you now there is nothing as tragic as a split church. There is nothing as pathetic as hard feelings between Christian people. Everyone suffers. The ones who carry on the fight suffer the loss of fellowship and friendship that was so pleasant and sweet. Children suffer. The work of the church suffers. Most important of all, the work of the Lord Jesus suffers, for Christians who are busy fussing and fighting hardly ever have time to win souls for whom Christ died.

The Love Chapter

No matter how generously we give of our offerings, no matter how sound we may be in the faith, no matter how beautifully you may speak or sing—if you do not have love for your brethren you are not worth the powder it would take to blow you up!

First Corinthians 13 reminds us, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth...."

You Go Your Way

When Abraham saw that he and Lot could not get along together, he did not propose a fight. He did not ask for a show of strength. Instead, he graciously suggested that the young man decided where he wanted to live and then he, Abraham, would move to another place. He said, in effect, "Lot, we are brethren. It is not right for us to fuss and fight. If we cannot get along together, then let's get along separately. You go your way and I'll go mine, and we will get along separately."

In spiritual matters I do not say nor believe we ought to compromise with those who are openly unsaved or those who pose as Christians but really are not saved, like the modernist crowd. But certainly those of us who are saved should love and pray for and help other Christians.

No grudge in our heart, no malice, no strife,

No words that are ever unkind;
But a smile, and a laugh, and a loving
hand-clasp

In the Land of Beginning we find.

IV. Giving

In the Land of Beginning Again, Abraham was a tither. Lot was kidnapped by five kings, and Ab-

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raham armed his servants and fought to rescue his errant nephew. When he returned from the battle with the five kings, Abraham met a man named Melchizedek and "he gave him tithes of all" (Gen. 14:20). Melchizedek was a type of Christ. He was the "king of Salem" and "priest of the most high God." "Salem" means peace. Jesus is our King of peace and Jesus is our High Priest.

Tithes, then, should be given to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tithing is right. It was right in the days of Abraham. It is right for you and for me today. People ought to tithe. And those who love the Lord do tithe. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Let me repeat—those who love the Lord keep His commandments, and those who love the Lord give tithes to Him.

Under the Law?

But someone will say, "Tithing was for the Jews under the law—it is not for us today." But let me remind you that the law had not yet been given in the day of Abraham. The law was given by God through Moses. And Moses was not born until years and years after Abraham had been buried in the cave of Machpelah. Abraham did not give because of the law; he gave because it was right. Jacob, too, was a tither.

Later on, tithing was included in the law. Of course someone will insist that the law was abolished when Jesus came. Someone will say that "the ordinances were nailed to the cross." But Jesus did not do away with the law. He did not come to break it; He came to fulfill it. It is true that ceremonial laws or ordinances were nailed to His cross, since these ceremonies, such as sprinkling the blood of a dove, sacrificing a red heifer, etc., pointed to and pictured Christ. There is no need of the ceremonial laws now that Jesus has come.

But moral law was in effect before the law was ever written, and it is in effect today. The Bible plainly says that Cain was a murderer although the law of Moses had not even been given at the time Cain killed his brother. And it is just as wrong to murder today. This is moral law—not ceremonial. It is wrong to bear false witness, to commit adultery, to take God's name in vain.

And it is still wrong to steal. And the Bible plainly says that one who does not tithe is a robber. "Will a man rob God?" asks Malachi. "Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8). A man who does not tithe, then, is a deliberate thief. He is as crooked as a dog's hind leg or a snake with the cramps!

It was right to give tithes in Old Testament times. It was right in the days of Christ, for He said, "... ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin ... these ought ye to have done ..." (Matt. 23:23). And it is right today, for Paul plainly said, "Give as the Lord has prospered you" (I Cor. 16:2). If God has given you a dollar, give Him one dime. If He has given you ten dollars, then give Him a dollar. That is a tithe and it belongs to God. Then give offerings over and above the tithe as God enables you to do so.

Ingratitude

Suppose a destitute brother came to you asking you for help. Suppose you had ten dollars in a dresser drawer and you told the friends to go and get nine of those dollars, leaving one for your own needs. But suppose your friend took all ten of those dollars! You would certainly feel he had been guilty of base ingratitude. How contemptible! How little—how mean!

How, then, do you believe God feels about you when the cattle on a thousand hills are His and the silver and the gold. He gives you the privilege of opening the drawer of His storehouse in order that you may provide for yourself and your family. He only asks that you use at least one dollar out of ten for Him. What kind of person are you if you do not do it?

I Don't Keep a Record But...

Many people feel sure they give as much as, or more than, one-tenth of their income but do not

keep a record of it. But if it doesn't mean enough to you to even keep a record of it, I seriously doubt that you give anything like as much as one-tenth of your income to God. More than likely you are a first-rate phony.

What do you believe would happen if you went to your groceryman with the suggestion that you would take all the groceries you needed day after day without keeping any special record of how much you got. You, on the other hand, would pay the groceryman some money occasionally, but there would be no record kept of how much you paid him. How do you believe your groceryman would react to this kind of proposition? Or the manager of the filling station? Do you honestly believe any businessman would agree to this kind of proposition?

Isn't it strange, then, that you feel your business transactions with the Lord are not as important as the ones you have with your groceryman or milkman or laundryman or tailor?

The probable truth is that you do not tithe and you well know it. What is more important, God knows it, for He keeps a record whether you do or not.

Every Christian should set aside at least one tenth of his income for the work of the Lord. This should be done regularly and systematically.

Not Because of Wieners

Remember there is one way to finance our churches. And this is the one and only way to do it. Backslidden indeed is the church that sinks to church bazaars, pie suppers, basement carnivals, the sale of ice cream, or even—heaven help us—kisses! Do not give your money for a carnival—give it for the Lord.

In a small church in a Texas town I was plagued years ago with a choir director who could get no one to sing in his choir. The choir had places for sixty people but this man was doing well when he could get ten or twelve people to come to the choir. As far as his private life was concerned, perhaps the less said the better. At any rate, he was a choir director without a choir.

Then one Sunday morning he had a brilliant idea and he announced it to the congregation. "Fill the choir this morning," he said, "and if the choir is full this morning and tonight, we will go on a wiener roast next Thursday night and I will pay for the wieners!"

You should have seen the people come to the choir! It was a veritable stampede! The choir was not only full; it was overflowing, and it was the same way that night. The following Thursday night they all went on a wiener roast and I understand everyone had a lovely time. I was not present.

The following Sunday morning the same thing happened. An appeal was made for choir members and only a handful responded until the director announced that they would follow the same procedure as that of last Sunday. If the choir was full both night and morning, they would have a wiener roast the following Thursday and he would pay for the wieners.

Before anyone had a chance to respond, I was in the pulpit confronting the chorister. "No, you won't," I yelled. "If anyone is going to sing in this choir, he is going to sing because he loves Jesus Christ—not because he loves wieners! We will have no more of this kind of business."

And that was definitely that!

Good neighbors, let's do what is right for Jesus' sake. Let's give our tithes and offerings because it is right. Let's sing in the choir, teach a Sunday School class, do what we can, and do it for Jesus' sake, trusting Him to reward us in due season.

V. Blessings

Abraham followed God. He went to the Land of Beginning Again, the promised land, the land of Canaan. He humbly walked with his Lord and became known as a friend of God. He lived close to the Lord and was sensitive to his shortcomings. When he sinned, he confessed it. He loved his brethren and had peace with them as much as lay within him. He gave his tithes and his offerings.

And God blessed him. His name,

indeed, became great. All the families of the earth have been blessed through him. God has blessed them who have blessed him, and cursed those who have cursed him. By faith Abraham followed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

It worked for Abraham—this journey to the Land of Beginning Again. And it will work for you.

It was true in the life of my own father who has long since been with God. Because it did work for my father, I am writing this message to you today.

My folks died when I was in my early teens. I left the old home place in Decatur, Texas, and went back to the ranch country where I had been born. I lived with my widowed sister, Ruth, on the Graham ranch between Olney and Archer City, Texas. Ruth taught school on the ranch. There was a two-room schoolhouse. She and her three little boys and I lived in one room, and she taught school in the other. I drove her Ford car the ten miles to Olney every day to finish high school.

When my school days were over, I wanted to go on to college. I had no money. I was of a shy nature. It was in the great depression. From every standpoint, my desire to go to college seemed hopeless, and yet I was determined to go to college. I stayed on the ranch after I was graduated from high school until it was time to enroll for the fall term. I wanted to go to Decatur Baptist College where John and George and Joe and Ruth had gone. I sent in for an application and signed up for the fall term. I packed up my meagre clothes in an old, battered valise that had been my father's and shipped it to Decatur, Texas.

Then one morning before daylight I went down to the corral, took a lariat rope off the peg and opened the gate. Inside the corral there were several horses, one of them a large silver named West that belonged to me. I roped, saddled and bridled her in the morning darkness. Leading her outside the corral, I mounted, waved a silent good-by to the sleeping ranch and turned the pony's head toward the east and Decatur Baptist College, over one hundred miles away.

I left before breakfast. I did not have one single penny in my pocket with which to buy food for lunch. I had no supper. Through the long, hot hours of the day I rode. Sometimes I followed the highways; sometimes I cut across the Texas prairie. Most of the time West maintained a smooth fox trot and we covered a surprising number of miles. But they were not happy ones. In the first place, I was tired and hungry. In the second place, I was scared half to death, and in the third place, my heart was filled with bitterness. My father had left me a little money when he died and some of his friends had borrowed it and had never paid it back. I had been a Sunday School boy all of my life and what had it gotten me? Almost all my friends danced, but I had never even learned,—had never been on a dance floor in my life. Many of my friends drank, and I had never touched one drop of liquor. Many of my friends smoked, but I never had. I had kept myself morally clean. And yet here I was, an orphan boy in the midst of the depression without even one single penny in my pockets. I had told everyone I was going to college, but how could I without a job, without money?

I grew more bitter as the long day drew to a close. Suddenly I became aware of dark storm clouds gathering overhead. Lightning cracked and thunder rolled. Clearly I was in for a good old Texas thunderstorm! My horse and saddle and clothing would be soaking wet. My bitterness increased.

I was back on the highway now, and presently I noticed a large farm home with fine barns and buildings on the left of the road. I turned my horse's head up the lane, approached the front yard gate and hollered the customary "Hello."

A gray-haired man appeared on the front porch and answered, "Hello yourself. Get down."

I dismounted and walked down the path to meet him. "I am on my way to Decatur where I am

going to college," I said. "It is going to rain in a few minutes and if you don't mind, I'd like to sleep in your barn tonight."

The gray-haired man assured me that he did not mind my sleeping in his barn if I would promise to strike no matches. Then, as he looked me square in the face, he asked, "What did you say your name was, son?"

I had not told him, but now I did tell him that my name was Bill Rice, and I repeated that I was on my way to Decatur where I was going to college. (I was so proud of the fact that I was going to college!)

"Did you say Rice?" he asked. "Are you any kin to the Senator Will Rice who used to live in Decatur?"

When I told him that Senator Will Rice had been my father, the old man was delighted. Turning toward the house, he called in a loud voice, "Ma! Oh, Ma!" And when a lovely gray-haired lady appeared at the door, he continued, "Ma, this young fella is the son of Senator Will Rice, and he is going to spend the night with us."

The dear lady ran down the path to meet me and told me she was so glad I had come their way. She asked me if I was hungry and I told her that I had not yet had my supper. The man and I went to the barn where we unsaddled West and gave her fresh water and oats and hay.

When we walked back to the house the dear lady had set the table with good food and I hungrily ate my breakfast, dinner, and supper all at one time!

As I ate, they talked. Would this be my first year in College? Did I think I would like it? How were my brothers and sisters, etc?

As I concluded my meal, they excused themselves and put down springs and mattresses on the front porch to make a bed for me. When I had finished eating, the old man told me I ought to get to bed since I had a hard ride ahead of me on the morrow. When I suggested that I would go to the barn to sleep, he told me that any son of Will Rice's could always have the best bed in his house, and now that the storm was over, he and Ma felt it would be cool and pleasant on the front porch and they wanted me to sleep out there.

Before we retired, he and Ma knelt on the front porch to pray. I dropped to my knees, too, and reverently heard his prayer. He prayed for his sons and daughters, for his neighbors, and for me. He thanked God for the many good things that had come his way in life, and he thanked God that I had come to spend that night with them. He prayed that he and Ma might be a blessing to me.

When they had retired I was a very thankful young man as I pulled off my boots and slipped between the clean, fresh sheets of my bed.

It seemed I had hardly fallen asleep when he was shaking my shoulder and telling me to get up. "It will be daylight before long," he said, "and you have a long ride today. Ma has breakfast about ready."

I rolled out of bed, dressed and pulled on my boots. I washed my hands and face in the cold water of the old pump behind the house and, as I walked into the kitchen for breakfast, I could smell fried chicken! We had fried chicken, biscuits and gravy for breakfast. Since I ate longer than they did, he had bridled and saddled West and brought her up to the front gate by the time I had finished eating. The good lady made a number of sandwiches for me to carry so I would not go hungry that day.

They were standing by my chair when I finished eating and arose from the table. He had on a pair of blue overalls and from the bib pocket he pulled out a checkbook. She handed him a fountain pen as he said, "It takes money to go to college, son, and I imagine you are going to need a little help. Just how much money do you think you will need this first term?"

I told him I didn't think I would need any money at all. He insisted on helping me. He said I could call it either a gift or a loan but that he would like to help me, and he

asked me again how much I needed.

Again I told him I did not want to take any money from him, and, believe it or not, I did not let him give me or lend me one single penny.

We walked down the path toward the front gate. The early morning sun had just begun to shine on the silver head of this dear couple. I untied the reins, but before I mounted I turned and tried to thank them for their kindness to me. They told me not to mention it.

"But why have you been so good to me?" I asked.

"I was going to tell you about that, Bill," the old man said. "Years ago when Ma and I first came to this place, we invested all the money we had in the down payment. Our children were little. Hard times came. Drought came; crops dried up. Our herd of cattle wasted away. Everything seemed to go wrong. When the time came to meet the note on the place, I had no money with which to pay. I was granted an extension. But things went from bad to worse, and I still was unable to pay on my note. Finally I was told I would have to pay or lose the place. I was desperate. I tried to borrow money, but could not. I tried to find work, but there was no work to be found. I wondered what in the world would become of my wife and my babies. We were in desperate circumstances."

"Then one day, when it seemed there was no hope for us, a stranger came riding down that same highway out there on a horse. He turned up the lane and stopped at my front yard gate, just as you did yesterday. He told me he had heard that I was in trouble, that I was about to lose my ranch, that my family was in need, and that he had come to see if he could help me."

"I did not know him, and he did not know me," the old man continued, "but he helped Ma and me to save this place. But he did more than that for us. He told us that we would lose far more than the ranch if we were not careful—we would lose our souls. He told me and Ma about the Lord Jesus Christ and we gladly became Christians. Our children, too, turned to the Lord that day."

"Yes," he continued, "that cowboy heard we were in trouble and he came to help us. He came because he was a Christian and he wanted us to be Christians, too. Because of him I was able to pay for this ranch. My four children have had good educations. I gave each one of them a farm on his wedding day. All my children are saved, and all my grandchildren who are old enough have been saved. God has been so good to me and to Ma. But we would have lost this ranch and we would have lost our souls if it had not been for the stranger who came our way that day."

"And, Bill,"—he placed his hand on my shoulder—"that stranger was your father!"

My dad! God bless him! Years before I was even born my father heard of a man who was in trouble—a man who needed money and who needed Christ. And just for Jesus' sake my father saddled a horse and rode to see this man, this complete stranger. He helped the man care for his family and he won the man and his family to Christ. Then he rode away.

But my father never dreamed that some forty years later his baby boy would ride a horse down that same highway. He never dreamed that I would be so backslidden, so scared, and so bitter. And my father did not dream that the man to whom he had been a blessing—the man he had sacrificed to win to Christ—my dad never dreamed that this same man would, in turn, take me in, feed me, give me a bed for the night, offer me money for college tuition, and send me on my way reconsecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ!

My father did what was right for Jesus' sake. He trusted the Lord to guide him, to provide for him and to reward him. And God richly rewarded my father's faith, for I mounted my silver horse that morning, waved a grateful farewell to the elderly couple and turned my horse's head toward the east, toward college and the ministry—to the Land of Beginning Again.